

photoelectric converter portion and a charge/voltage converter portion for converting the charges transferred by said charge transfer portion into voltages, wherein

in a first mode, a first pulse signal for driving said charge transfer portion, a second pulse signal for reading out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, a third pulse signal for sweeping out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, and a fourth pulse signal for discharging the charges transferred to said charge/voltage converter portion are selectively supplied to said solid state image pickup device,

in a second mode, selectively changing at least one pulse signal out of the first, the second, the third and the fourth pulse signals [is changed over] to a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level independently from any of the pulse signals.

3. (Once Amended) A method for driving a solid state image pickup device [being] provided with a plurality of photoelectric converter portions being composed of a plurality of pixels in a row, and a plurality of charge transfer portions for transferring the charges generated in respective rows of pixels in the plurality of photoelectric converter portions, wherein,

in a first mode, driving pulses from a pulse generator are supplied to all charge transfer portions, and in a second mode, driving pulses to be supplied to at least one of said plurality of charge transfer portions are switched over to either a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level independently from signals of the pulse generator.

In the Title of the Invention: Please replace the title with Image Pickup Device with Circuitry for Switching Between Driving Pulses and other Signal Levels.

REMARKS

Applicants hereby requests that the period for response be extended by one month to April 21, 2003. Applicants have included a check in the amount of \$410.00 to cover the extension fee.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1794.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of Applicants' foreign priority document that has been submitted under 35 USC section 119. In accordance with the Examiner's request, Applicants have changed the title of the invention. In regard to item 2, Applicants have submitted a proposed drawing amendment which modifies Figures 1 and 4 to remove the reference to VDD and GND. Additionally, in regard to item 3 in the Examiner's action, Applicants have modified Figure 4 to include the reference to RG which is the reset gate as described with reference to Figure 1.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior art rejections set forth by the Examiner under 35 USC sections 102 and 103. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art references of record, whether considered alone, or in combination, fail to either teach or suggest Applicants' presently claimed invention. Applicants claimed invention is directed to a solid-state image pickup device wherein a user is able to drive the device with a timing that is different from that of ordinary driving pulses. In an exemplary embodiment, the ordinary driving pulses can be easily switched over to a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level via a switching circuit. This change can be made without regard to the signal from the pulse generator. More specifically, this is significantly different than the cited art which can only reach the alternate levels in response to signals from the pulse generator. This difference makes it possible to operate the device accurately and at a different timing from an initial or present timing of the generator. Furthermore, it is possible to suspend the operation of an unnecessary pulse signal while also making it possible to control the generation of noise. It is also possible to lower the power consumption by suspending the driver operation through fixing unnecessary pulse signals at a predetermined potential. See specifically, Applicants summary of the invention at pp. 5-6.


On page 8 of Applicant's present disclosure, beginning in the first full paragraph, the specification states that Figure 2A shows a switch circuit for selecting either input timing signal or a predetermined potential and Figure 2B alternately shows a switching circuit for selecting either an input timing signal or a floating level. It is the switching circuitry which advantageously provides Applicants claimed device with increased versatility of use that is independent from the pulse generator. The prior art references of record fail to either teach or suggest Applicants claimed image pickup device. Through utilizing the claimed switching circuitry, it is not necessary to change the makeup of the timing pulse generator for generating the driving pulses. See specifically page 11 in the last full paragraph of the

specification. Applicants submit that the prior art of record provides no teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding Applicants' claimed invention. In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner now set forth a Notice of Allowance for all of the claims in this application.

Accordingly, in light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 21, 2003


(Reg. #37,607)
Robert J. Deppe
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLC
55 West Monroe Street, Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Tel: (312) 422-9050
Attorney for Applicant